

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 092538
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HA/HR - L. MORIN (PHONE)

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R 111743Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PINT, SHUM, TW, US

SUBJECT:ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN'S LETTER CONCERNING
TAIWANESE PRESBYTERIANS' DECLARATION ON HUMAN
RIGHTS

REFERENCE: TAIPEI 02128

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN'S LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 14 WAS
ADDRESSED TO BEN J. WEI, GENERAL SECRETARY, FORMOSAN
CHRISTIANS FOR SELF-DETERMINATION, A NEW YORK BASED
ORGANIZATION. IT WAS WRITTEN IN REPLY TO WEI'S LETTER TO
DERIAN PRAISING THE CHURCH'S STAND IN SUPPORT ON SELF-
DETERMINATION FOR TAIWAN AND FORWARDING THE TEXT OF THE
PRESBYTERIANS' DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. WEI CON-
CLUDED HIS LETTER BY URGING DERIAN "TO INFORM THE TAIPEI
AUTHORITIES NOT TO TAKE REPRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE
AUTHORS OF THIS DECLARATION."

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2. HERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF DERIAN'S LETTER:

"DEAR MR. WEI: THANKS FOR YOUR AUGUST 30 LETTER ENCLOSING
A COPY OF THE RECENT DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUED BY
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN TAIWAN. YOUR VIEWS ON HUMAN
RIGHTS, CHINA POLICY AND THE FUTURE OF TAIWAN ARE AP-

PRECIATED.

THE DEPARTMENT WAS AWARE OF THE PUBLICATION AND THE GOVERNMENT'S SUBSEQUENT CONFISCATION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S DECLARATION. THE DECISION TO CONFISCATE THE PUBLICATION REPRESENTS A REGRETTABLE RESTRICTION ON THE FREE EXPRESSION OF IDEAS ON TAIWAN. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING, HOWEVER, THAT NONE OF THE DECLARATION'S AUTHORS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OR DETAINED BY THE AUTHORITIES. YOU MAY REST ASSURED THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TAIPEI WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE MATTER CLOSELY.

AS TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DECLARATION, THE DEPARTMENT IS VERY CONSCIOUS OF THE VIEW THAT THE FUTURE OF TAIWAN SHOULD BE DECIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THE POSITION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE, WHICH IS BASED ON THE SHANGHAI COM;UNIQUE, WAS SUCCINCTLY STATED BY SECRETARY VANCE IN HIS JUNE 29, ASIA SOCIETY SPEECH AS FOLLOWS: "WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE VIEW EXPRESSED IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE THAT THERE IS BUT ONE CHINA. WE ALSO PLACE IMPORTANCE ON THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE TAIWAN QUESTION BY THE CHINESE THEMSELVES." END OF TEXT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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